

Amendments to Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the instant application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for provisioning a telephone service feature, the method comprising:

identifying a telephone service feature requested by a calling party to be temporarily provisioned to a called party for the duration of [[a]] an already connected call between the calling party and a third party that does not include the calling party [[that]], wherein the telephone service feature was not previously provisioned to the called party by an exchange carrier;

temporarily allocating telephony system resources to the called party in the already connected call in response to the request by the calling party to support said identified telephone service feature for the duration of the already connected call;

temporarily activating said identified telephone service feature for the call;

deactivating said activated telephone service feature upon completion of said call;

and

reallocating said telephony system resources in response to completion of said call.

2. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein said identifying step further comprises:

receiving a call request identifying a telephone service feature to be temporarily provisioned for the duration of [[a]] the already connected call; and

determining whether said identified telephone service feature can be provisioned within a telephony network for a call serviced by the exchange carrier.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein said allocating step comprises allocating line interface circuits capable of providing said requested telephone service feature to a subscriber.

5. (Original) The method according to claim 4, wherein said allocating step further comprises:

reserving a pool of resources for activating said identified telephone service feature; and

selecting from said reserved pool of resources, an available resource capable of processing said identified telephone service feature.

6. (Original) The method according to claim 5, wherein said selecting step further comprises the step of multiplexing said available resource onto existing telephony service in order to support said call request for said identified telephone service feature.

7. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 2, wherein the step of receiving said call request further comprises:

providing a list of telephone service features offered for calls serviced by the exchange carrier to a party, said list comprising said telephone service feature to be activated; and

selecting said telephone service feature to be provisioned from said provided list of telephone service features.

8. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein said telephone service feature is a feature selected from the group consisting of a caller ID feature, a three-way calling feature, a call waiting feature, a call hold feature and a call forwarding feature.

9. (Previously Presented) A machine readable storage having stored thereon, a computer program having a plurality of code sections, said code sections executable by a machine for causing the machine to perform the steps of:

identifying a telephone service feature to be temporarily provisioned for the duration of a call that was not previously provisioned by an exchange carrier;

temporarily allocating telephony system resources to support said identified telephone service feature;

temporarily activating said identified telephone service feature for the call;

deactivating said activated telephone service feature upon completion of said call ; and

reallocating said telephony system resources in response to completion of said call.

10. (Previously Presented) The machine readable storage according to claim 9, wherein said identifying step further comprises:

receiving a call request identifying a telephone service feature to be temporarily provisioned for the duration of a call; and

determining whether said identified telephone service feature can be provisioned within a telephony network for a call serviced by the exchange carrier.

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Currently Amended) The machine readable storage according to claim 9, wherein said allocating step comprises allocating line interface circuits capable of providing said requested telephone service feature to a subscriber.

13. (Original) The machine readable storage according to claim 12, wherein said allocating step further comprises:

reserving a pool of resources for activating said identified telephone service feature; and

selecting from said reserved pool of resources, an available resource capable of processing said identified telephone service feature.

14. (Original) The machine readable storage according to claim 13, wherein said selecting step further comprises the step of multiplexing said available resource onto existing telephony service in order to support said call request for said identified telephone service feature.

15. (Previously Presented) The machine readable storage according to claim 10, wherein the step of receiving said call request further comprises:

providing a list of telephone service features offered for calls serviced by the exchange carrier to a party, said list comprising said telephone service feature to be activated; and

selecting said telephone service feature to be provisioned from said provided list of telephone service features.

16. (Original) The machine readable storage according to claim 9, wherein said telephone service feature is a feature selected from the group consisting of a caller ID feature, a three-way calling feature, a call waiting feature, a call hold feature and a call forwarding feature.

17. (Currently Amended) A system for temporarily provisioning a telephone service feature, the system comprising:

a controller, said controller receiving a call request from a calling party to temporarily provision a telephone service feature to a called party that is already in a connected call to a third party that does not include the calling party, identifying [[a]] the telephone service feature that was not previously provisioned by an exchange carrier to be temporarily provisioned for a called subscriber terminal for the duration of [[a]] the already connected call that is serviced by said exchange carrier, said controller allocating telephony resources to support said telephone feature in response to the call request and reallocating said telephony resources in response to completion of said call; and

an activator, said activator for activating said identified telephone service feature to satisfy said received call request and deactivating said required telephone service feature upon completion of said call.

18. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 17, wherein said telephony resources comprise a reserved pool of communication processing circuits controlled by said controller.

19. (Original) The system according to claim 18, wherein each of said communication processing circuits further comprises a line interface circuit for providing said telephone service feature.

20. (Original) The system according to claim 19, further comprising a common multiplexed bus for connecting each of said line interface circuits to a transmission conduit.

21. (Original) The system according to claim 20, wherein said controller further comprises a multiplexer for multiplexing communication signals from said line interface circuits onto said common multiplexed bus.

22. (Currently Amended) A system for temporarily provisioning a telephone service feature, the system comprising:

a communications controller for receiving a call request from a calling party to temporarily provision a telephone service feature to a called party that is already in a connected call to a third party that does not include the calling party and identifying [[a]] the required telephone service feature that was not previously provisioned by an exchange carrier to be temporarily provisioned for a called subscriber terminal for the duration of [[a]] the already connected call serviced by said exchange carrier;

a pool of reserved communication processing circuits for activating and deactivating said identified telephone service feature; and

a multiplexer for multiplexing an available communication processing circuit from said pool of reserved communication processing circuits onto a transmission conduit providing service to said called subscriber terminal for the duration of the call, said available communication processing circuit being reallocated to said pool of reserved communication processing circuits upon termination of the call.

23. (Original) The system according to claim 22, wherein said communications controller further comprises circuits and program logic of determining an available communication processing circuit from said pool of reserved communication processing circuits, and allocating said available communication processing circuit for processing said telephone service feature.

24. (Original) The system according to claim 23, further comprising a multiplexed bus for communicating telephony signals between each of said communication processing circuits and said called subscriber terminal through a transmission conduit.

25. (Original) The system according to claim 23, wherein said communication processing circuit is a line interface circuit providing local access service to said called subscriber terminal.

26. (Cancelled)

27. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the exchange carrier services calls for a recipient of the call, the method further comprising the step of:

after the activating step and before the deactivating step, the exchange carrier establishing a communication session for the call.

28. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the identifying, activating, and deactivating steps occur within a network element of a public switched telephone network.

29. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the identified telephone service feature is a feature associated with a line-based telephone number serviced by the exchange carrier.